

## REMARKS

In accordance with the forgoing, claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9, 10, 13, 14, 16 and 17 have been amended and claims 3, 8, 12, 15 and 19-22 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9-11, 13, 14, and 16-18 are pending and under consideration.

### I. Objections to the Specification

The title of the invention stands objected to as not being descriptive. The title has been amended to include the suggestion by the Examiner. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

The abstract of the disclosure stands objected to for including reference to "the invention". The abstract of the disclosure has been amended to remove "the invention". Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

The specification has been amended to include the appropriate application serial number for the referenced commonly owned patent applications. In addition, amendments have been made to change "electrometric" to "elastomeric" in paragraphs 0048 and 0050. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

The specification stands objected to for failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. "Is-4 standard" has been removed from the claims. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

### II. Objections to the Claims

Claims 3, 8, 15 and 21 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein, rendering the objections to those claims moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

### **III. Rejections under 35 USC §102**

Claims 1, 5-6, 10, 12, 13, 17 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,413,595 to Stutz, Jr. ("Stutz"). Claim 20 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,843,141 to Bischoff et al. ("Bischoff"). Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 11-14, 18 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Publication No. 2004/0034393 to Hansen et al. ("Hansen"). The claims of the present invention are patentably distinguishable from the cited prior art document and the rejections are respectfully traversed.

The claims of the present invention are directed to a conductive element fixedly positioned about an end of an elastomeric element, and a plurality of contact members extending from a contact member proximal end fixedly positioned along the proximal end of a side wall of the conductive element to a contact member distal end, the plurality of contact members extending inward through the second hole formed by the side wall, the contact member distal end extending outward from the distal end of the side wall to be positioned within a first hole formed by the elastomeric element so that the contact member distal end is positioned against the elastomeric element upon insertion of the medical lead through the first hole and the second hole.

None of the cited prior art documents teach this feature. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

### **IV. Rejections under 35 USC §103**

Claims 3, 4, 8, 9, 15, 16, 21 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hansen in view of U.S. Publication No. 2004/0167582 to Tvaska et al. ("Tvaska"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As pointed out by the Examiner, Hansen does not teach or suggest the conductive element having a plurality of contact members. While Tvaska teaches such contact members, Tvaska does not teach or suggest the plurality of contact members extending inward through the second hole, the contact member

distal end extending outward from the distal end of the side wall to be positioned within the first hole so that the contact member distal end is positioned against the elastomeric element upon insertion of the medical lead through the first hole and the second hole, as set forth in the claims of the present invention. Accordingly, claims 4, 9 and 16 are patentably distinguishable from Hansen and Tvaska. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

#### **V. Conclusion**

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney to attend to these matters.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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